

4 Chairs Development

Below is a partial breakdown of the spiritual muscles and practices being developed during each of the 4 Chair stages (<http://4chairdiscipling.com/>)

Chair One – Come and See (John 1:39)

This is the space of showing initial interest in Jesus. Much of the life of Jesus and the gospel message are obscured or confusing, and this is because the person in this stage is religiously dead and in need of new life. At this stage, interest in spiritual things may be growing and the simple calling of Jesus begins to be understood. This stage ends when a person believes the gospel of Jesus and chooses to follow him.

- Explore the message of Jesus (gospel)
- Ask many questions
- Develop trusted Christian friends
- Arrive at a moment of clarity and decision
- Follow Christ as Savior

Chair Two – Follow Me (John 1:43)

Chair two represents the person who has now trusted Christ as Savior. Jesus has said, “Follow me,” and they have responded positively. So a relationship with Jesus has begun and the depths of that relationship are growing and developing. This chair involves a lot of personal spiritual growth.

- Begin understanding their new identity in Christ
- Reading the Bible regularly as a primary source of wisdom from God
- Memorizing God’s word (often with others)
- Learning to pray as a normal part of life
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit for comfort and guidance
- Learning about sin, repentance, confession, and restoration
- Regularly worshipping and praying with others
- Learning how to forgive others
- Learning how to love people and restore broken relationships
- First steps of serving in a ministry

Chair Three – Follow me... Fish for People (Matthew 4:19)

Maturing has continued to develop from chair two and now turns increasing from self to others. Training begins with principles and practices that are not just about my own spiritual development, but also that of others. Increasing steps are also being made to regularly be with people who do not yet know Jesus as Savior with the hope of introducing them to the Him.

- Continue personal growth from Chair Two
- Learning to “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him” (Mt 16:24-26)
- Develop relationships with not-yet Christians
- Learn to answer basic questions about the faith
- Develop your own personal testimony
- Developing Ministry Circles of “unbelievers, newer believers, and accountability”
- Learning to run the race of faith with endurance, overcoming problems and discouragement
- Learning how to interpret and apply the Bible beyond mere reading
- Practicing joyful obedience to God
- Increasingly spending time with wounded and hurting people

Chair Four – Go and Bear Fruit (John 15:16)

In this chair, the disciple is now making other disciples. It is the space of multiplication. This is the season of being a spiritual parent to others with the hope and desire to make them also into multiplying disciples.

- Continuing training and development from Chair Three
- Increasingly dealing with spiritual warfare
- Deeper dependence upon prayer and the Holy Spirit
- Developing deep care and concern for those who are disciples
- Ongoing (usually weekly) leadership and direction of other disciples